

DEC 28 2006

REMARKS

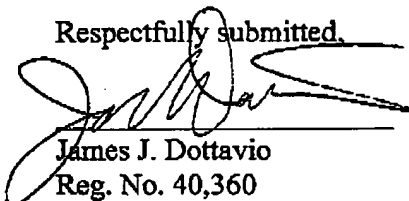
In response to the Office Action mailed Sept. 28, 2006, please consider the following remarks. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9, 11-54, 56 and 57 are pending in the application. Of these claims, claims 1-7, 11-52, 54, 56 and 57 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 8 and 9 are allowed and claims 53 and 60 are rejected.

In order to expedite allowance of the allowed claims, Applicants have canceled rejected claims 53 and 60 without any admission of any lack of patentability and reserve the right to continue prosecution of these claims in a divisional case.

If any questions should arise with respect to the above remarks, or if it would in any way expedite the prosecution of this application, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' attorney at the number listed below. If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this amendment, including any fee for a required extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) for which Applicants hereby petition, please charge all necessary fees to deposit account no. 50-0568.

Respectfully submitted,



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